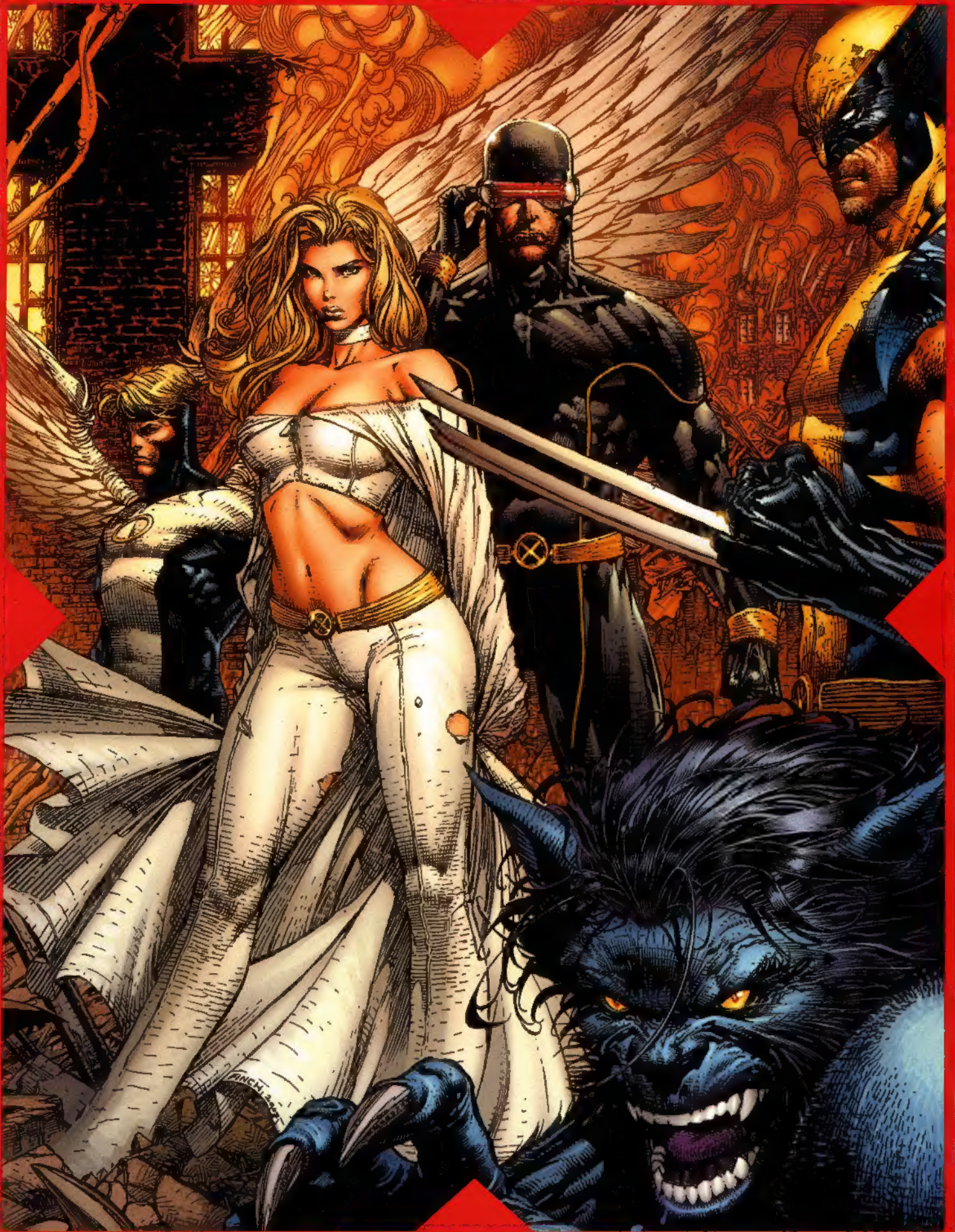


UNCANNY X-MEN®

ISSUE 494



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MESSIAH COMPLEX

chapter ten

BRUBAKER

MARVEL

TAN

DIRECT EDITION

MESSIAH COMPLEX

CHAPTER TEN

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BRUBAKER
TAN



After M-Day, mutantkind neared extinction. Once hailed as humanity's replacement, it appeared mutants, now reduced to a few hundred, would fade into oblivion. But a new mutant baby has arrived, the first since M-Day, and with it, hope for mutantkind.

Previously in MESSIAH COMPLEX...

Rogue mutant Cable has kidnapped the mutant baby. Fighting through evil geneticist Mr. Sinister's Marauders, the mercenary Reavers and the X-Men's black ops squad X-Force, Cable has made his way to Dallas, Texas. His destination? Mutant-inventor Forge's workshop, where he plans to use Forge's technology to fix his time-travel device and escape with the baby.

Meanwhile, Layla Miller and a duplicate of Jamie Madrox, the Multiple Man, have jumped through time with the aid of Forge's machinery. They've landed in a dystopian future where mutant persecution is rampant, and have since been imprisoned and branded, while still on the hunt for secrets to the baby's future.

Back in the present, Cable reached Forge's lab. To his horror, he not only found Forge wounded and bleeding on the floor, but fell victim to Forge's attacker—the X-Man Bishop.

CHAPTER TEN:

Ed Brubaker: *Writer*

Billy Tan: *Penciler*

Danny Miki with Allen Martinez: *Inkers*

Frank D'Armata: *Colorist*

Joe Caramagna: *Letterer*

Will Panzo: *Assistant Editor*

Nick Lowe: *Editor*

Axel Alonso: *Executive Editor*

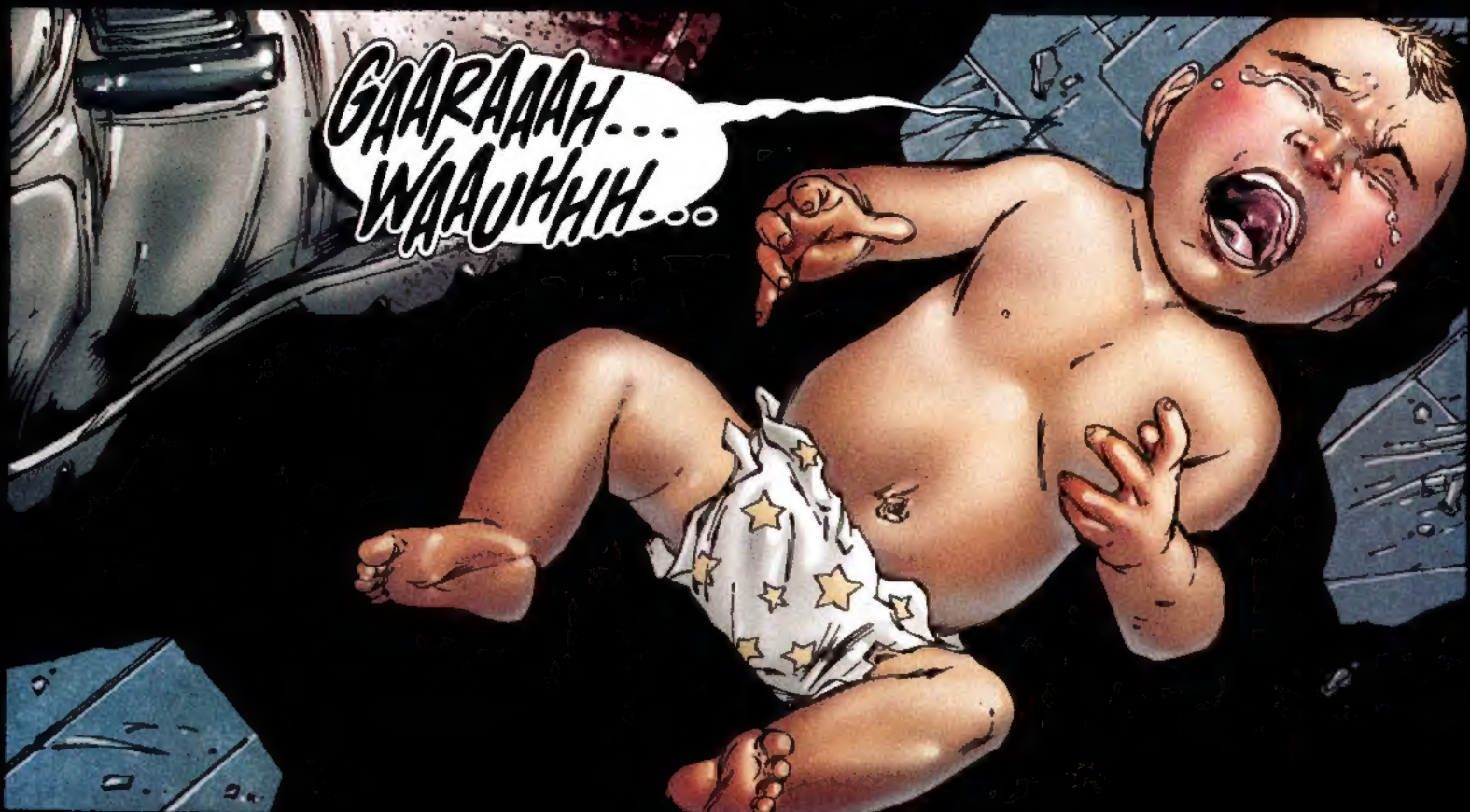
Joe Quesada: *Editor in Chief*

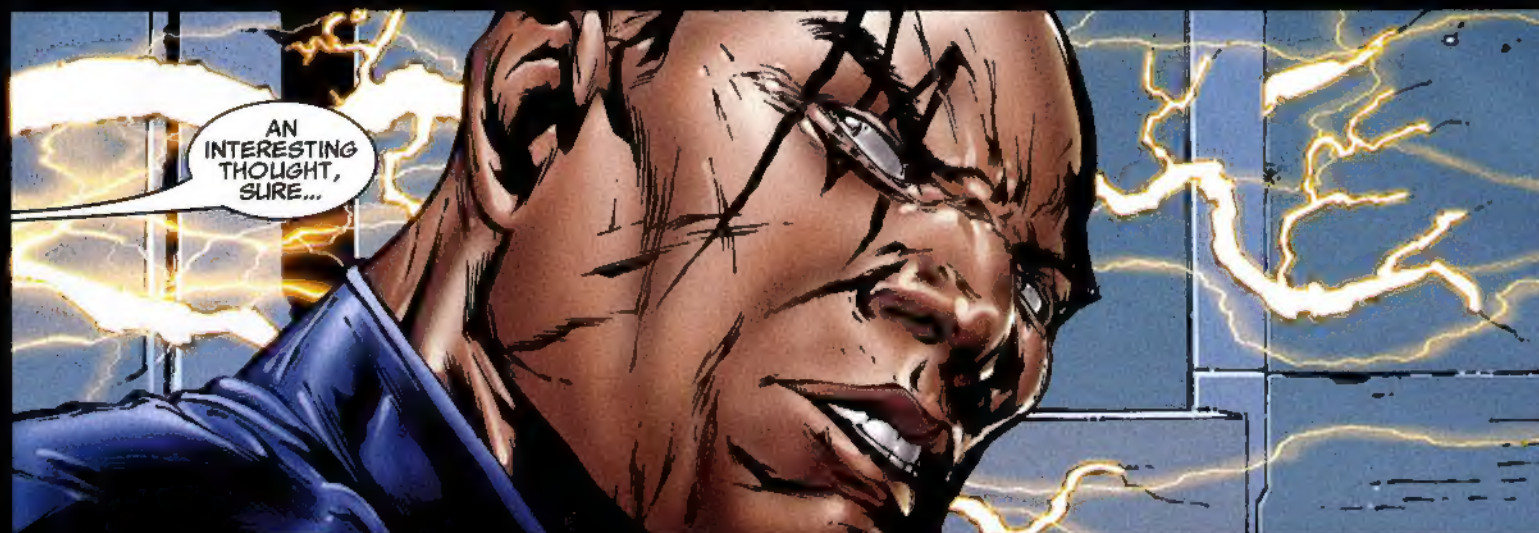
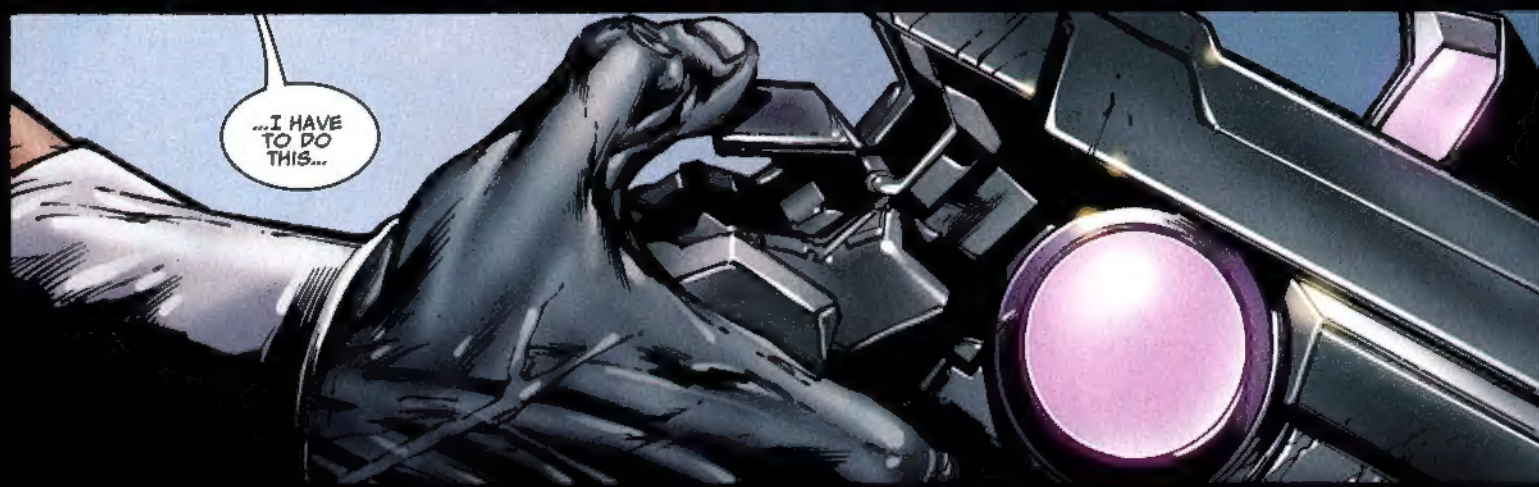
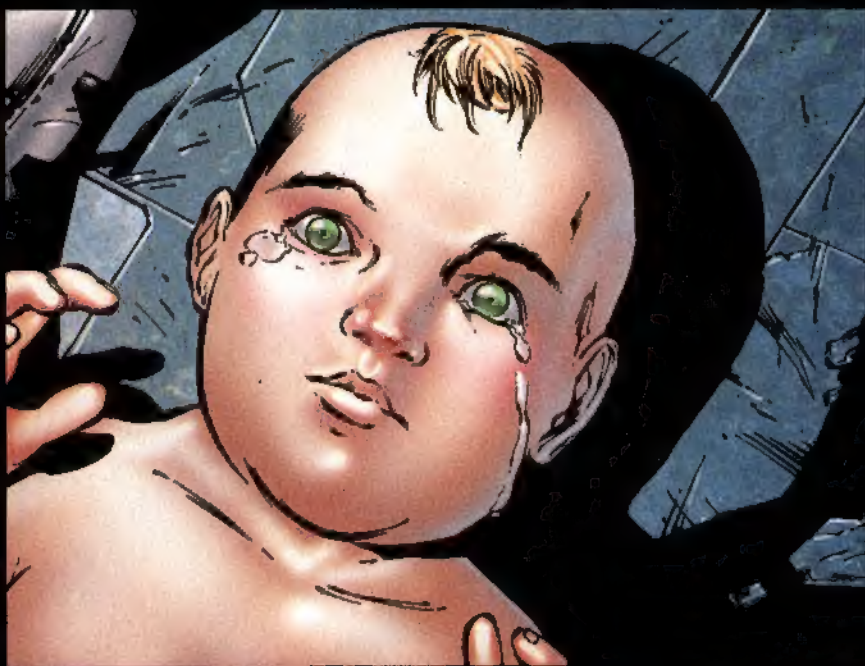
Dan Buckley: *Publisher*

Cover A by: *Finch, Keith*

Cover B by: *Simones Bianchi and Peruzzi*

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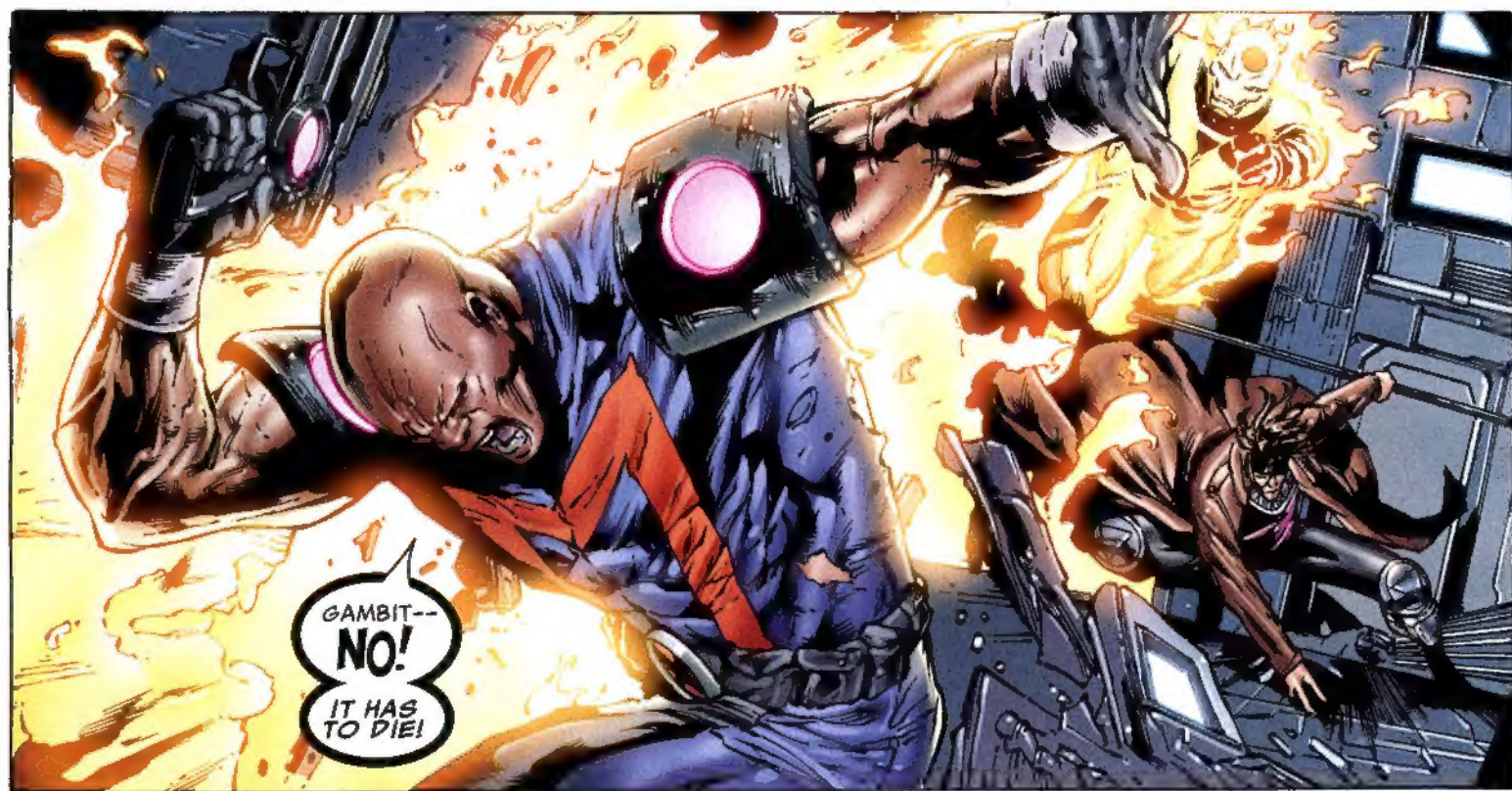
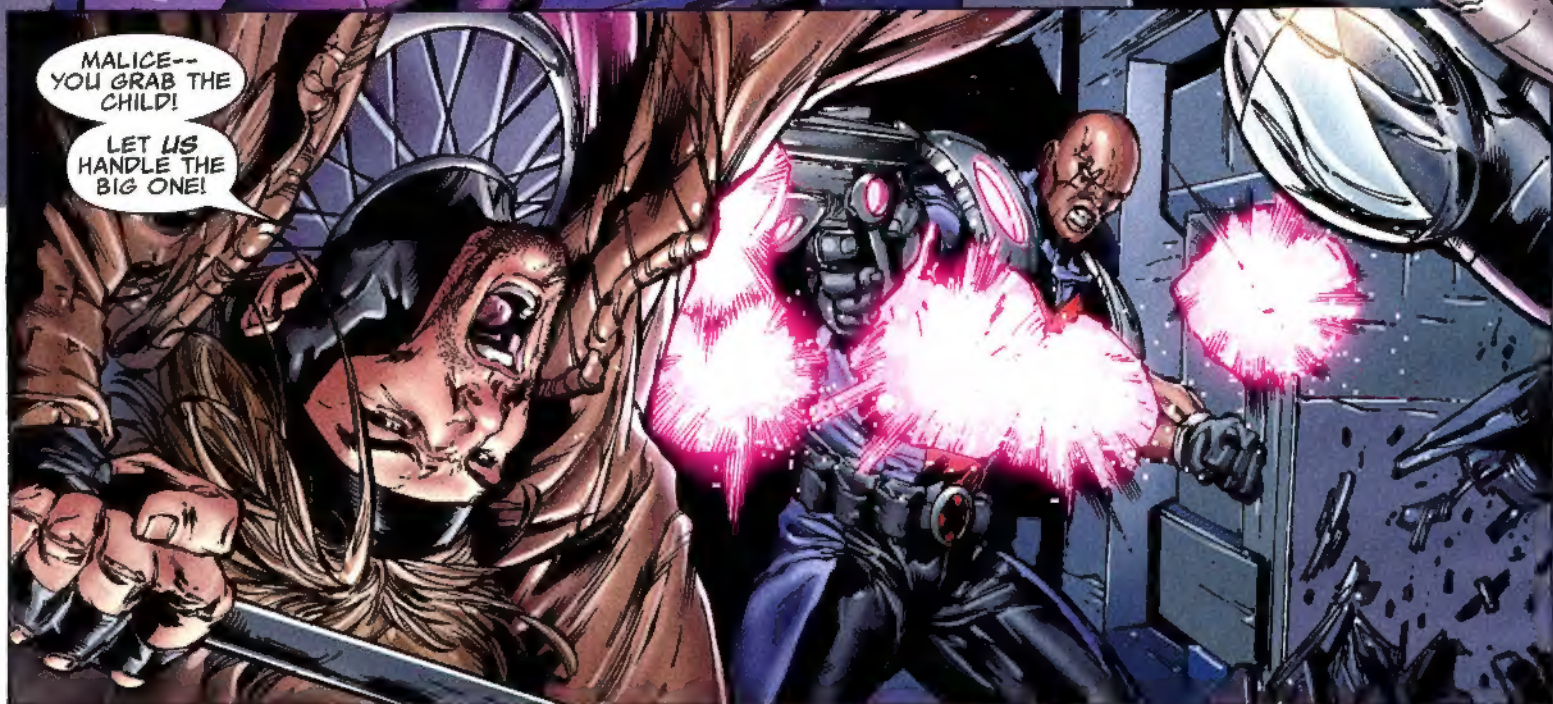
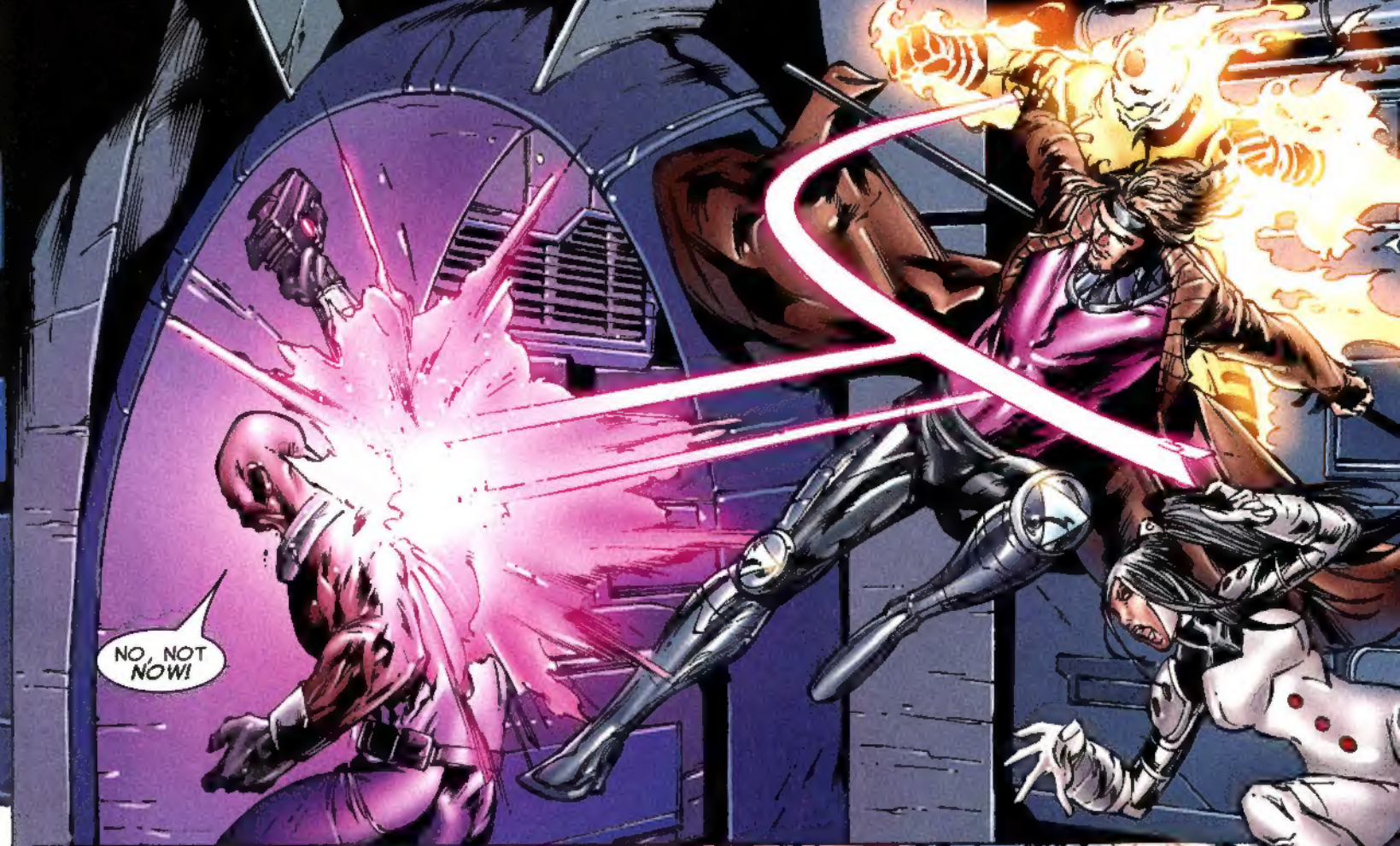




...BUT I
DON'T THINK
THAT'S HAPPENIN'
TODAY,
BISHOP...

THOUGH
I MUST CONFESS,
IT'S NICE TO SEE
YOUR TRUE COLORS
AFTER ALL
THESE YEARS.

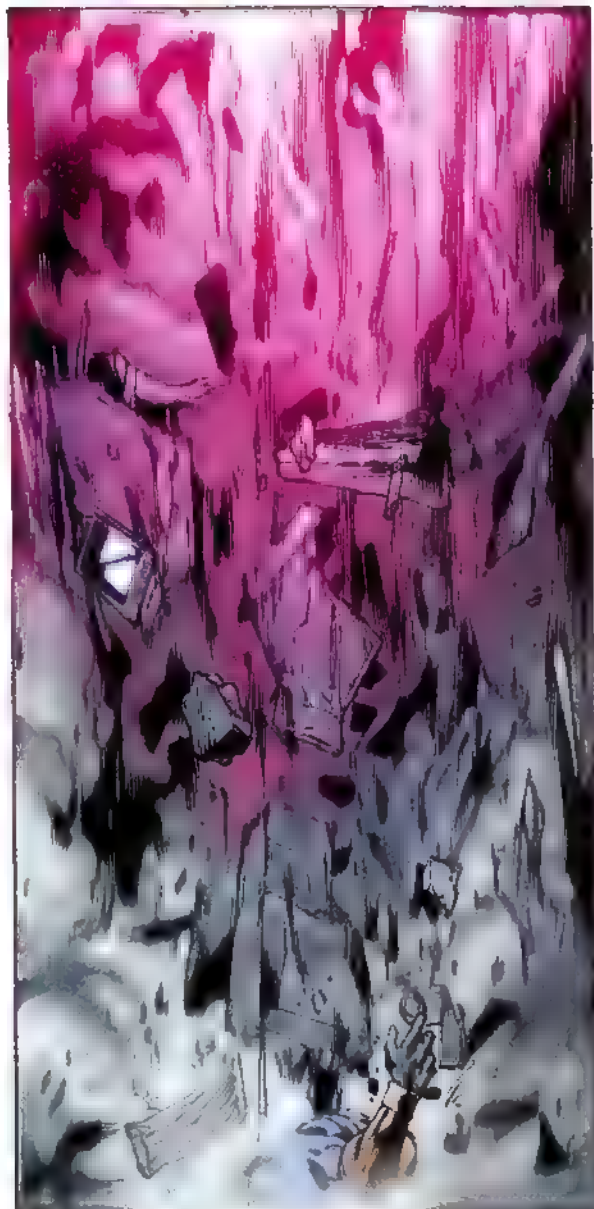
NO!

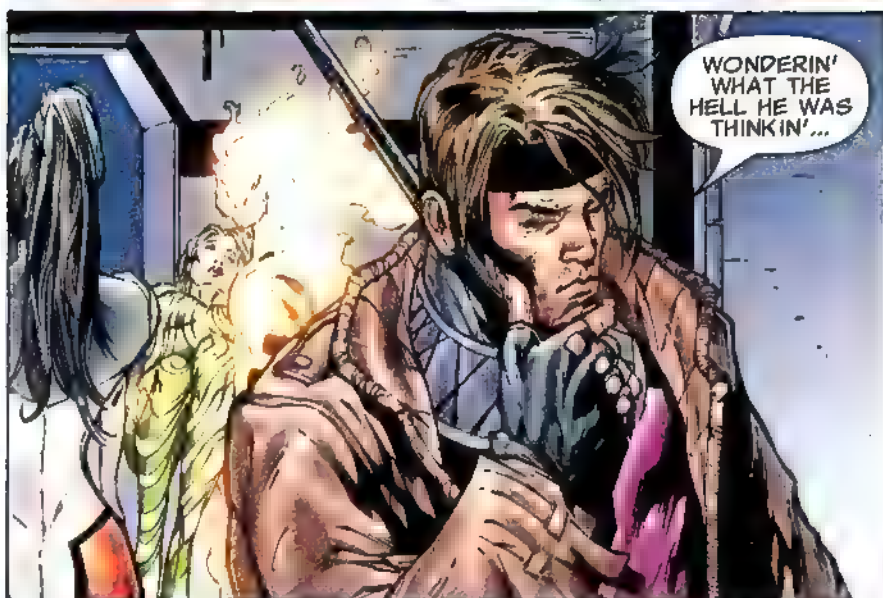
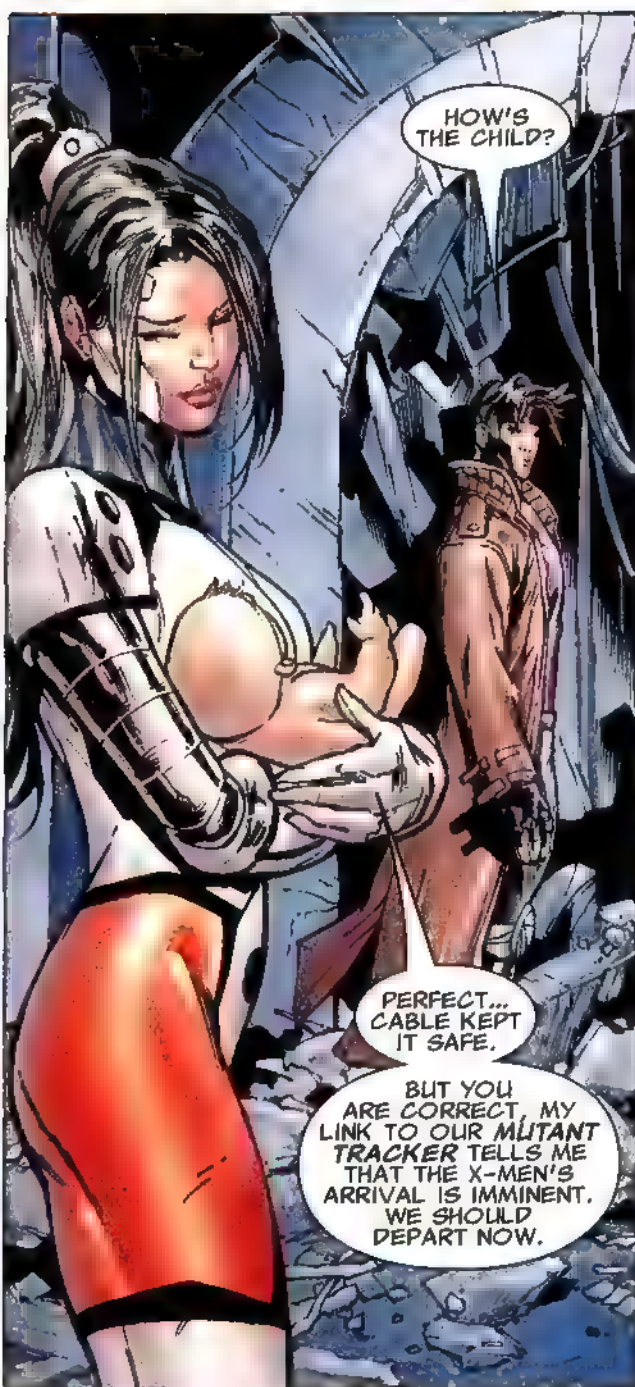
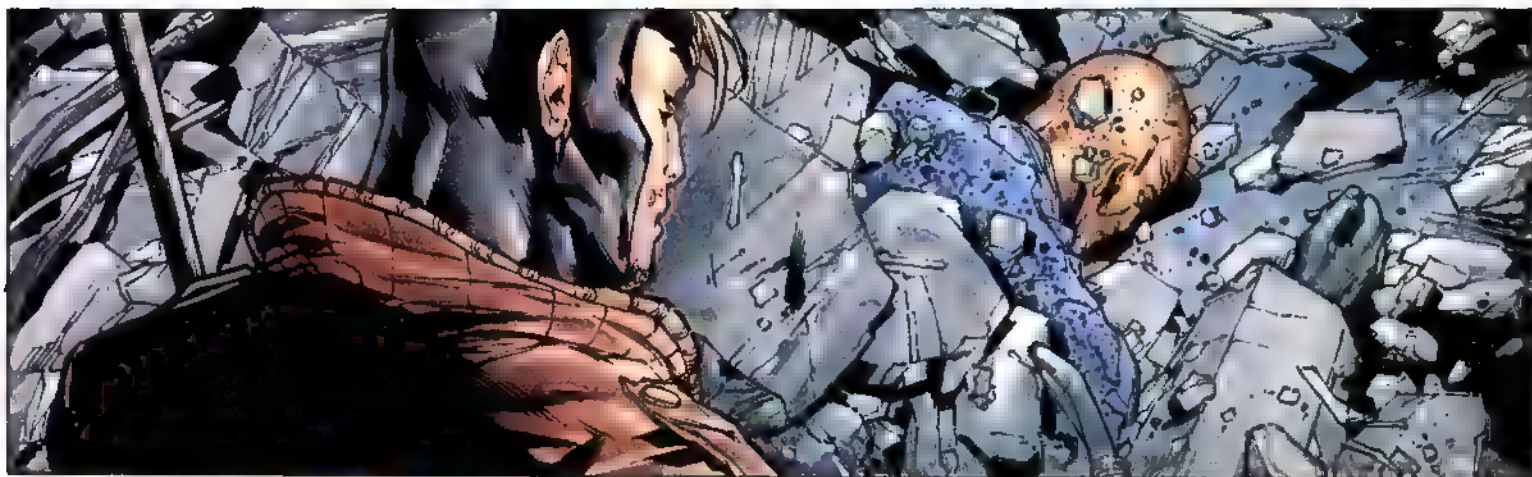


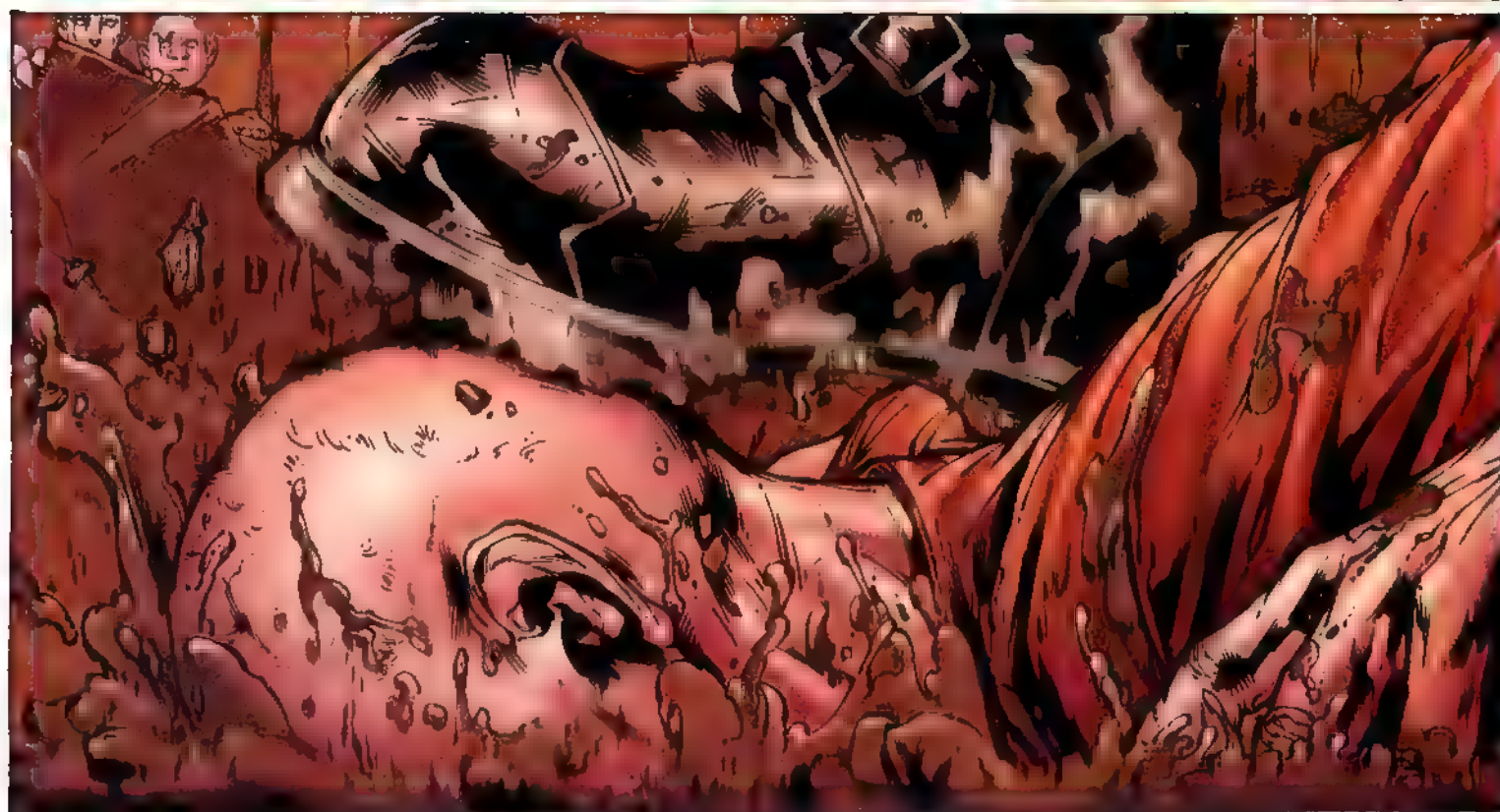


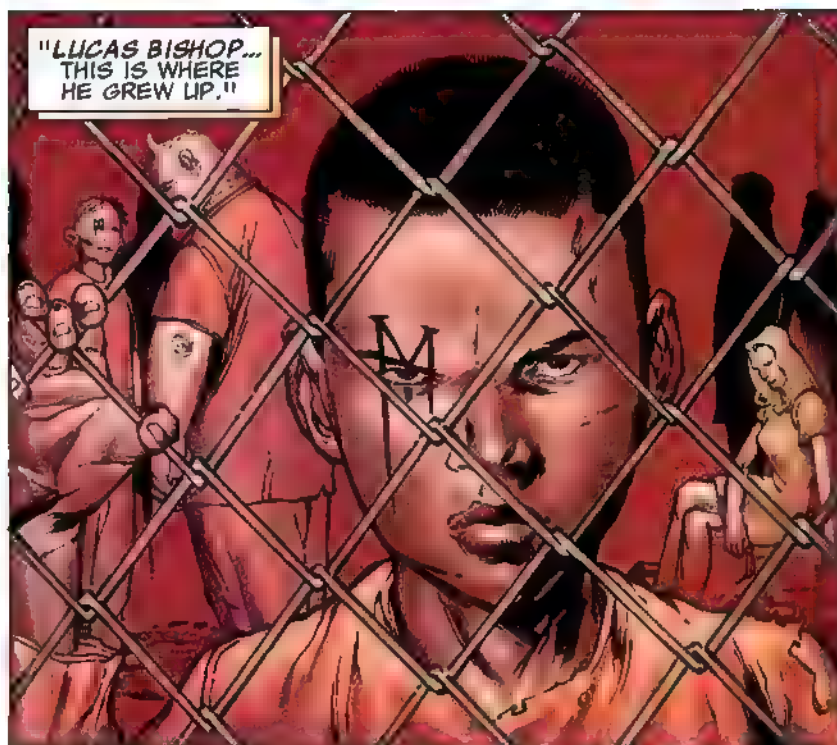
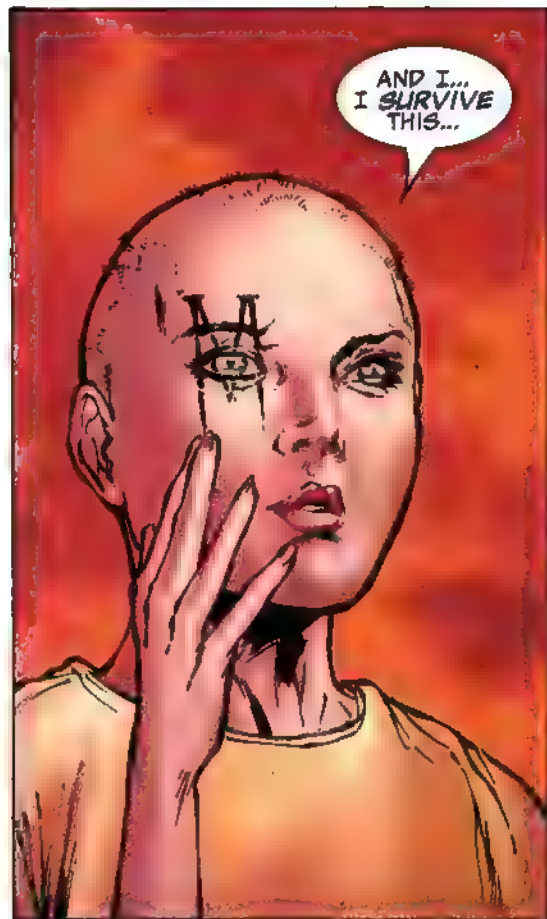












**EAGLE PLAZA--
PRESENT DAY.**

C'MON...
C'MON...

GIVE ME
A READING,
BLAST IT.



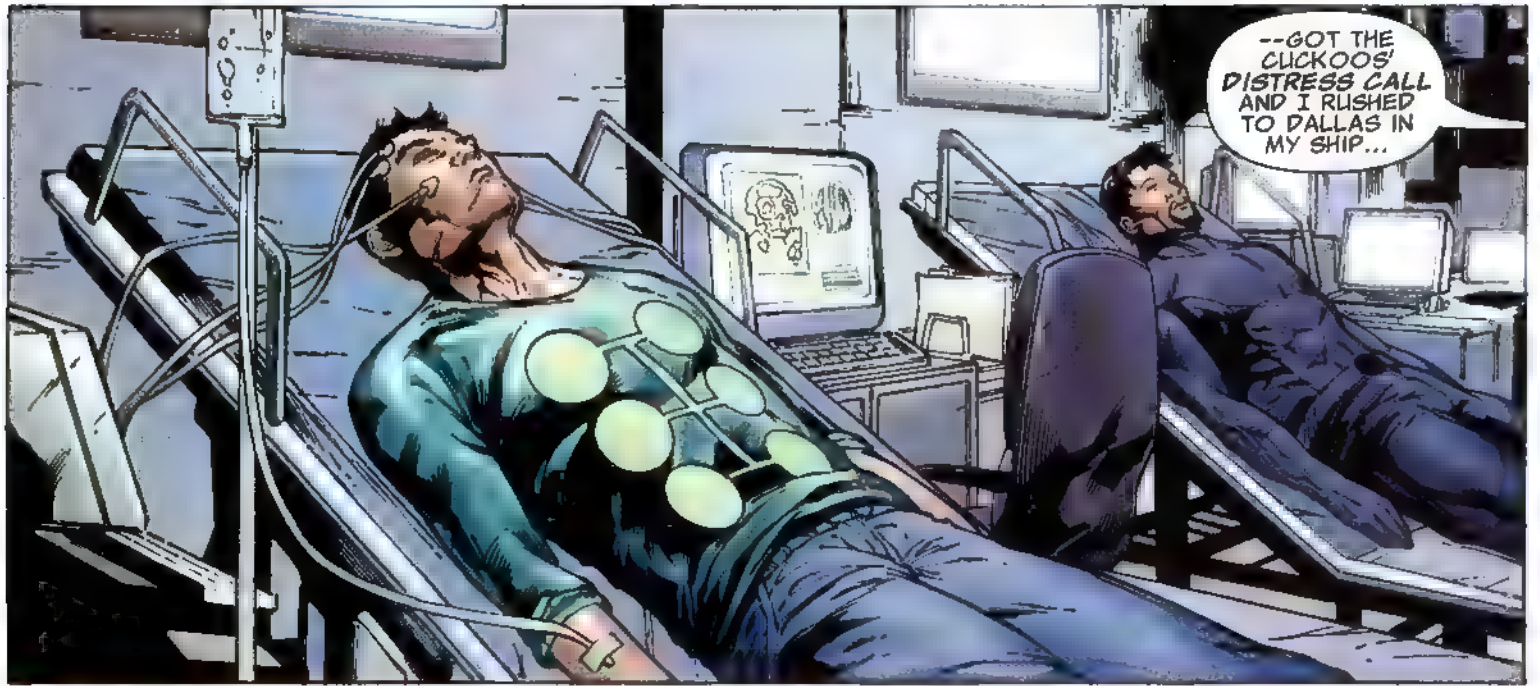
X-MEN
BLACKBIRD
MACH-TWO
LANDING ON
ROOFTOP.

NO! THEY'RE
ALREADY HERE?!
I NEED MORE
TIME...



"SCOTT
YOU'RE REALLY
GETTING IN MY
WAY NOW."





--GOT THE
CUCKOOS'
DISTRESS CALL
AND I RUSHED
TO DALLAS IN
MY SHIP...



BUT WHEN I GOT HERE,
CABLE HAD ALREADY TAKEN
FORGE OUT AND WAS
PILLAGING HIS EQUIPMENT
ROOM.

HE AND
I FOUGHT...
I SHOT HIM A
FEW TIMES.
SHOULD'VE
HAD HIM.

DON'T BEAT YOURSELF
UP, LUCAS...JUST
TELL US WHAT
HAPPENED.



JUST AS I WAS ABOUT
TO GRAB THE KID,
THE MARAUDERS
'PORTED IN...

...AND IT ALL WENT
TO HELL, SCOTT.
I DON'T KNOW
HOW ELSE TO
PUT IT.



BY THE TIME I CAME
TO AND DRAGGED
MYSELF OUT OF THE
RUBBLE, THEY WERE
ALL GONE...

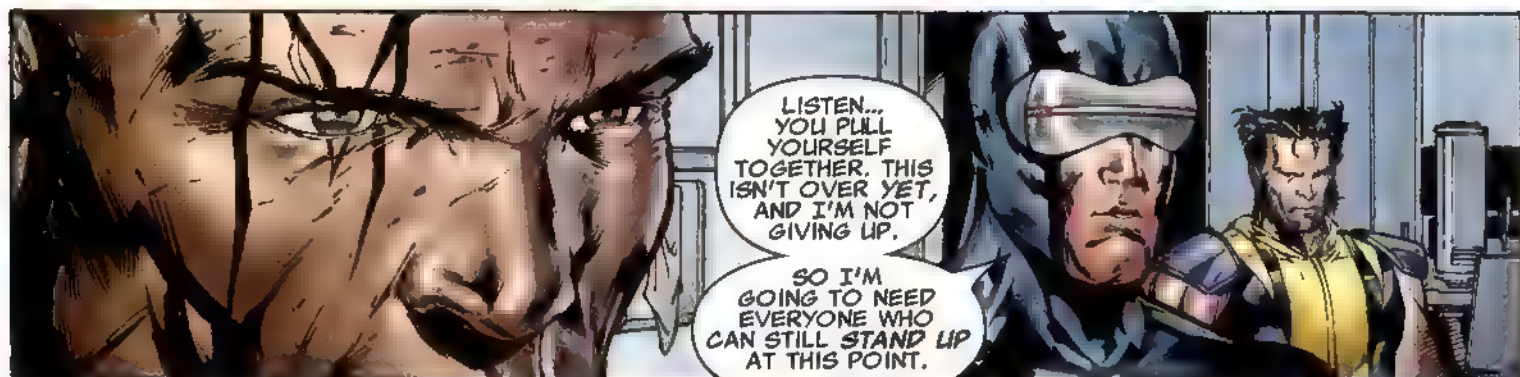
...EVEN CABLE
THOUGH I DOUBT
THEY TOOK HIM
WITH THEM.

YEAH, NOT
TOO LIKELY...
THEIR FOCUS
HAS BEEN THE
BABY ALL
ALONG.



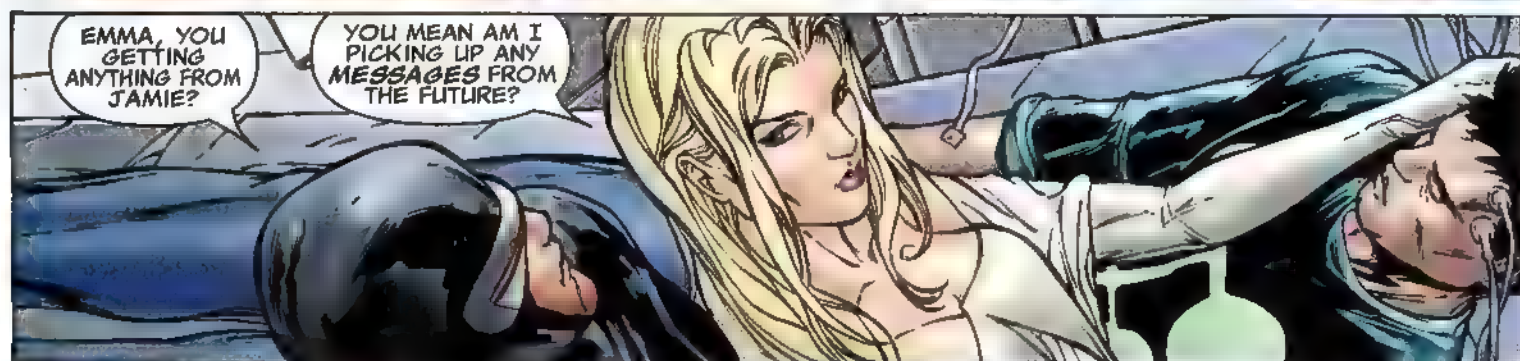
YEAH, AND
I LET THEM GET
THEIR HANDS
ON IT.

THE FATE
OF THE MUTANT
RACE...AND I
FAILED.



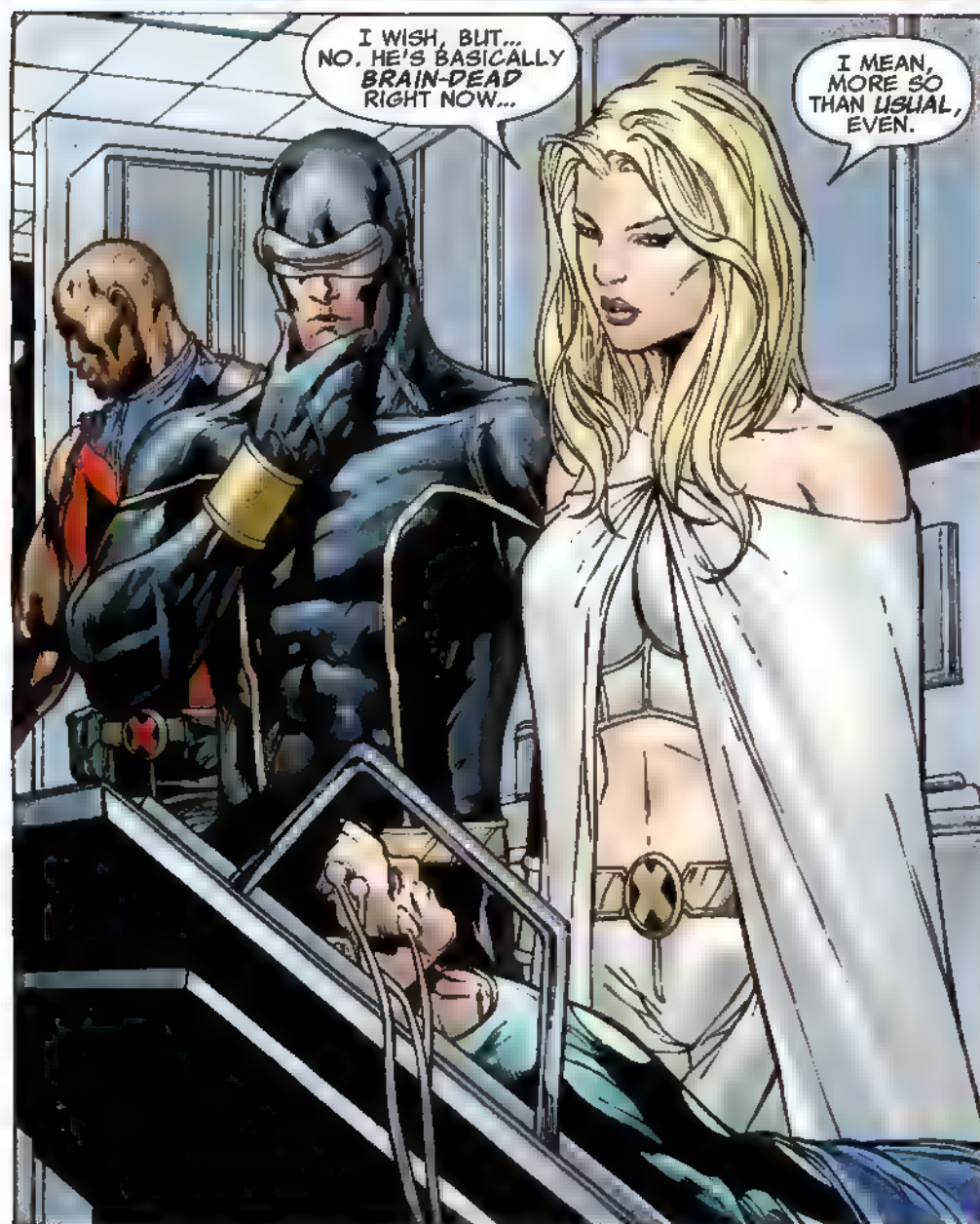
LISTEN...
YOU PULL
YOURSELF
TOGETHER. THIS
ISN'T OVER YET,
AND I'M NOT
GIVING UP.

SO I'M
GOING TO NEED
EVERYONE WHO
CAN STILL STAND UP
AT THIS POINT.



EMMA, YOU
GETTING
ANYTHING
FROM
JAMIE?

YOU MEAN AM I
PICKING UP ANY
MESSAGES FROM
THE FUTURE?



I WISH, BUT...
NO, HE'S BASICALLY
BRAIN-DEAD
RIGHT NOW...

I MEAN,
MORE SO
THAN USUAL,
EVEN.



YOUR
SHIP IS IN
TOP RUNNING
CONDITION?

YEAH,
WHY?

BECAUSE
WE LOST ONE
OF OURS.

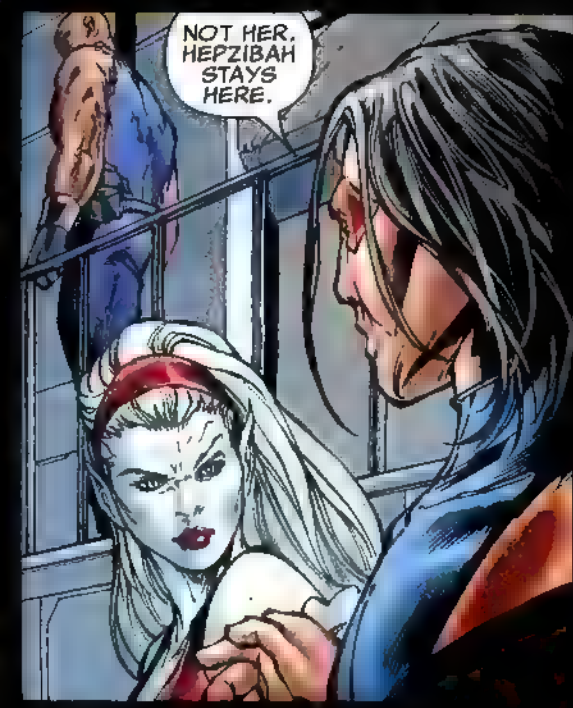


LOGAN, TAKE X-FORCE AND GO WITH BISHOP. HIS SHIP IS FASTER THAN THE BLACKBIRD.

ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO, TROOPS. MOVE.

RIGHT, SLIM...ANY IDEA WHERE WE'RE HEADIN'?

NOT YET, BUT I WANT YOU IN THE AIR WHEN I FIND OUT.



NOT HER. HEPZIBAH STAYS HERE.



NO, I DO NOT DO THAT, JAMES. I GO WITH YOU.

I CAN'T PUT YOU IN HARM'S WAY... NOT AFTER CALIBAN...

THIS ISN'T EVEN YOUR FIGHT.



DON'T BE IDIOT, JAMES. I PICK MY FIGHTS. YOU BEST OFF NOT BEING ONE OF THEM.



LISTEN TO ME--

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO CALIBAN?



HE'S DEAD, LUCAS.

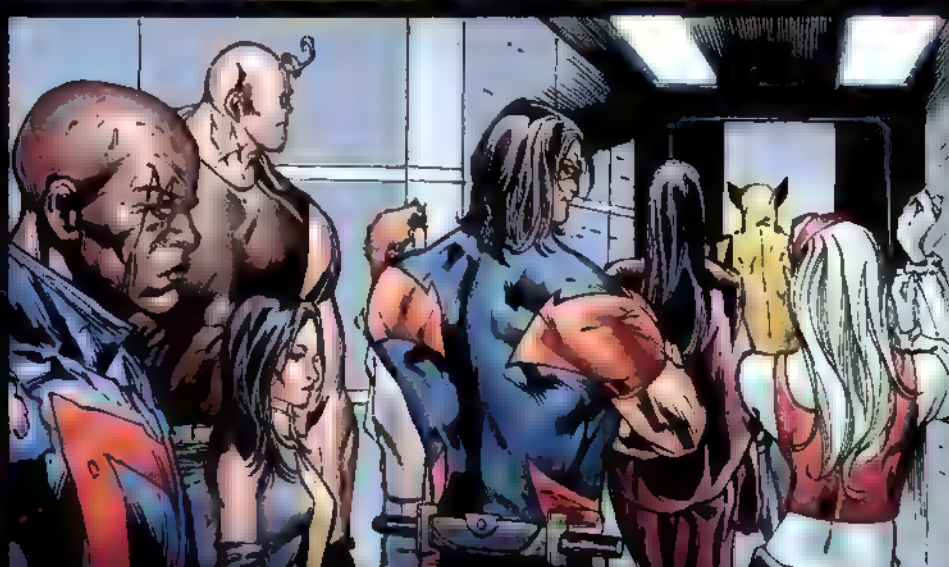
MY GOD...



YEAH...
SO LET'S
MOVE.
AN' JAMES,
IT AIN'T YER
SAY WHO'S ON
MY SQUAD.

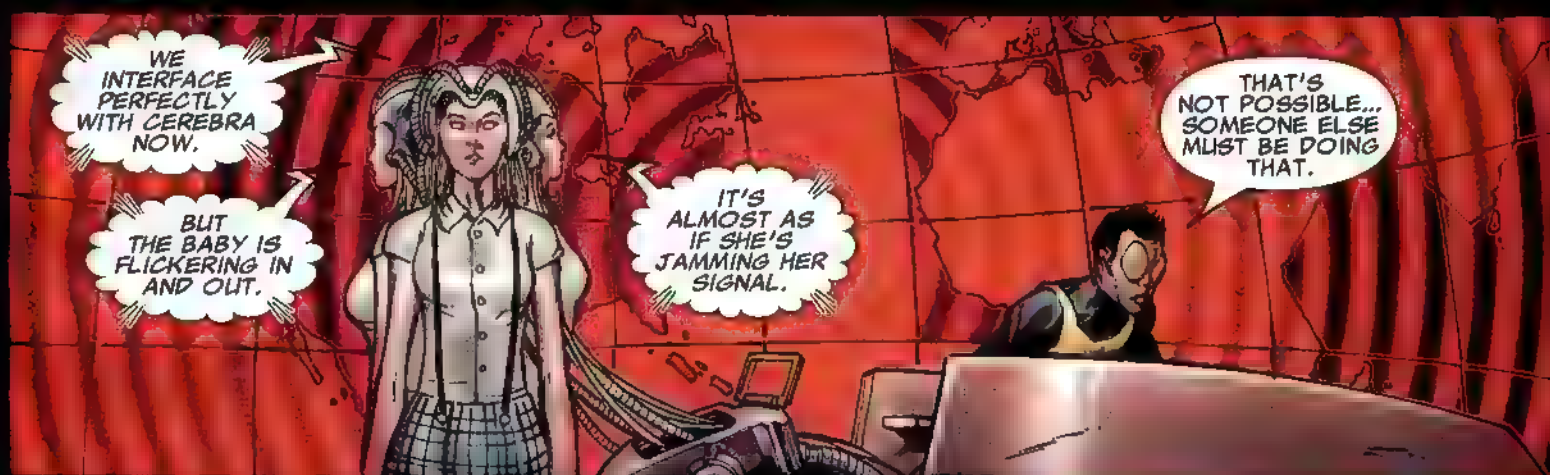


HEPZIBAH'S
GOT SKILLS AN'
LIKE SLIM SAID...
WE NEED EVERYONE
WHO CAN FIGHT
RIGHT NOW.



**THE XAVIER
INSTITUTE.**

NO
MISS FROST...
IT'S NOT
THAT...

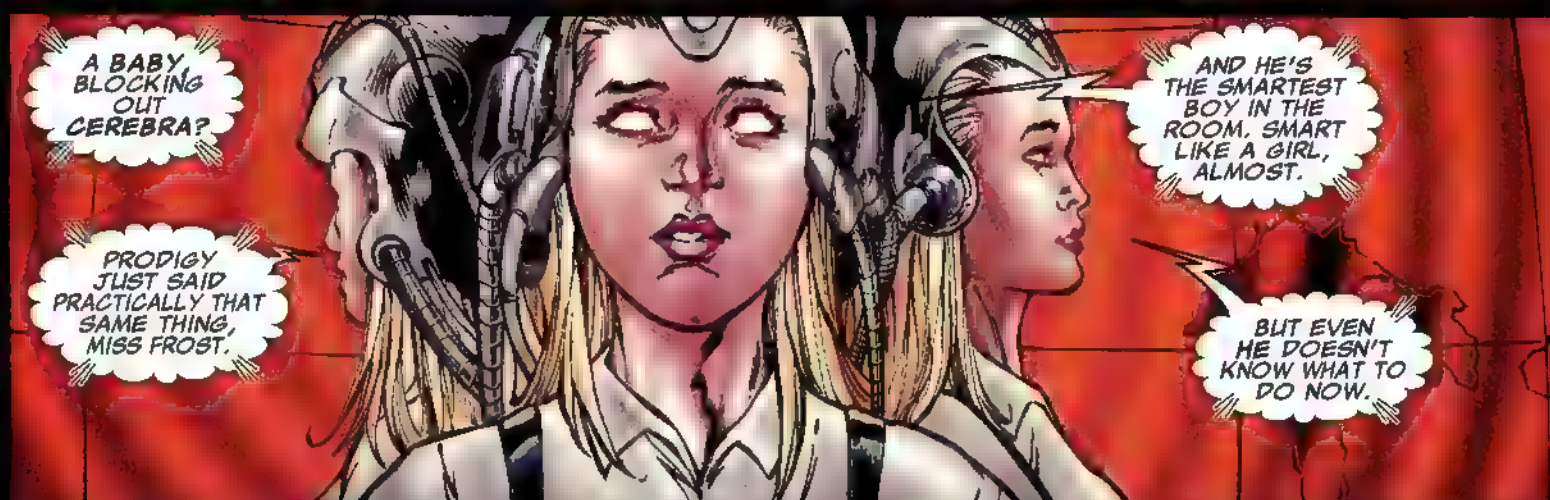


WE
INTERFACE
PERFECTLY
WITH CEREBRA
NOW.

BUT
THE BABY IS
FLICKERING IN
AND OUT.

IT'S
ALMOST AS
IF SHE'S
JAMMING HER
SIGNAL.

THAT'S
NOT POSSIBLE...
SOMEONE ELSE
MUST BE DOING
THAT.

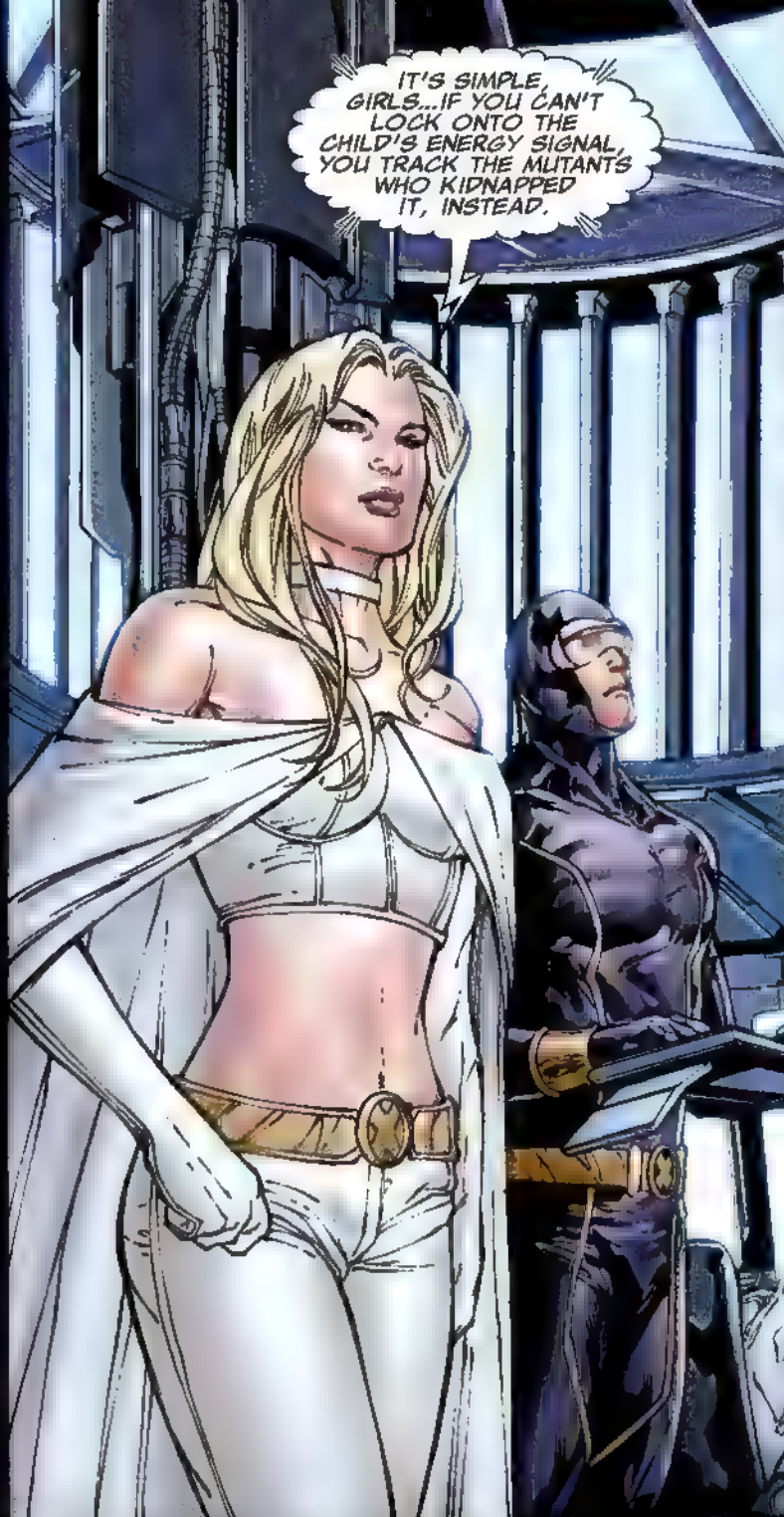


A BABY
BLOCKING
OUT
CEREBRA?

PRODIGY
JUST SAID
PRACTICALLY THAT
SAME THING,
MISS FROST.

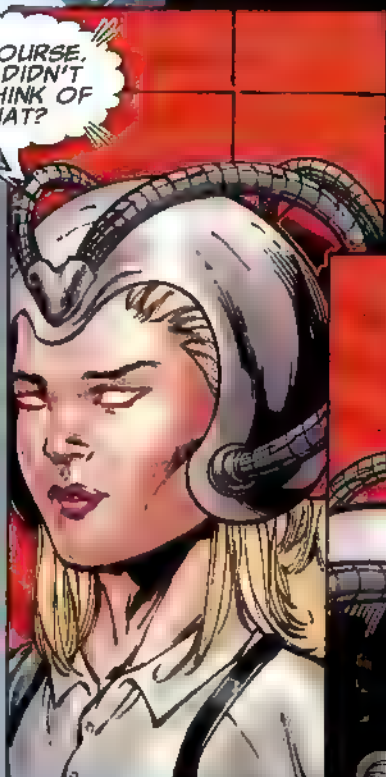
AND HE'S
THE SMARTEST
BOY IN THE
ROOM. SMART
LIKE A GIRL,
ALMOST.

BUT EVEN
HE DOESN'T
KNOW WHAT TO
DO NOW.

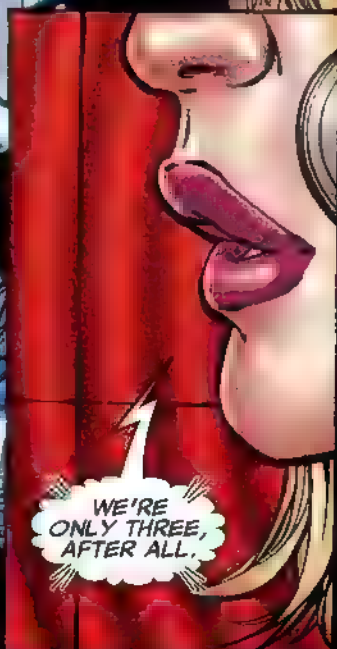


IT'S SIMPLE, GIRLS...IF YOU CAN'T LOCK ONTO THE CHILD'S ENERGY SIGNAL, YOU TRACK THE MUTANTS WHO KIDNAPPED IT, INSTEAD.

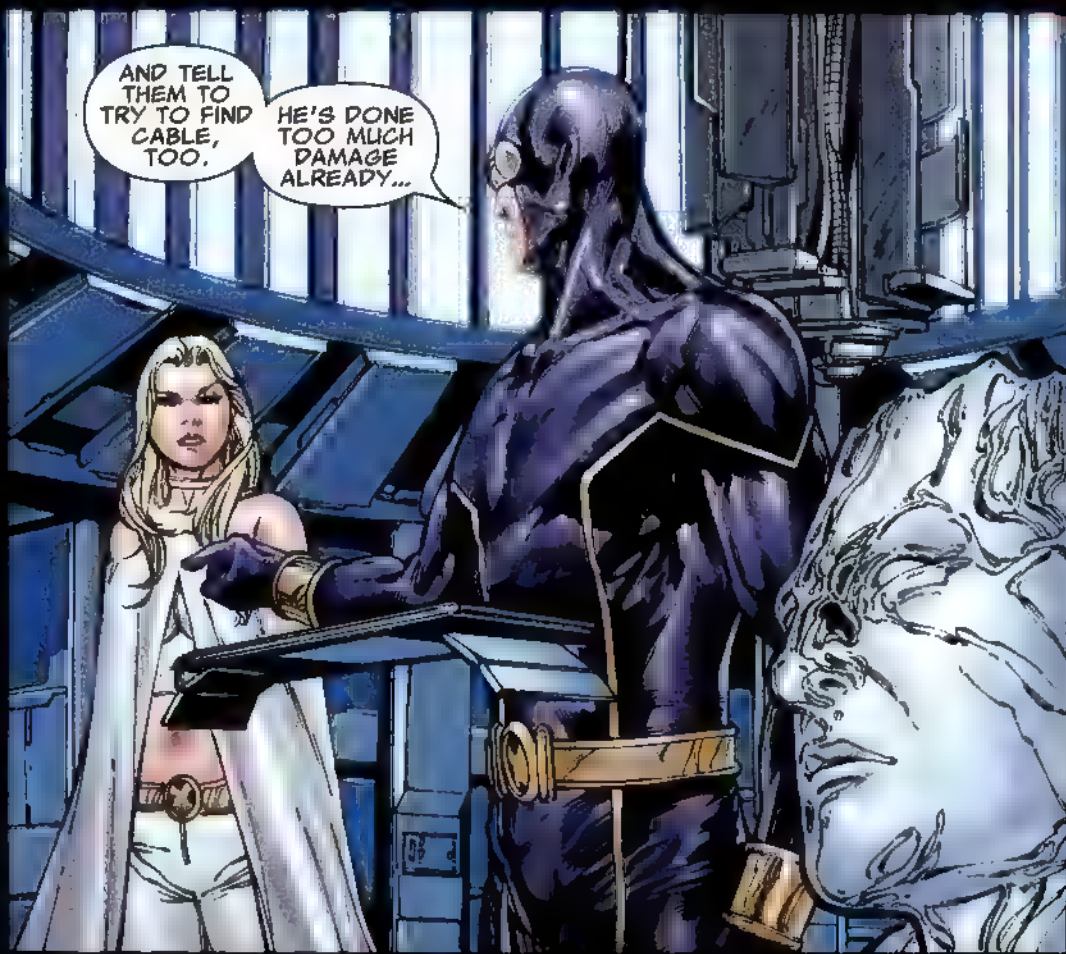
OF COURSE. WHY DIDN'T WE THINK OF THAT?



WE WOULD HAVE, EVENTUALLY.

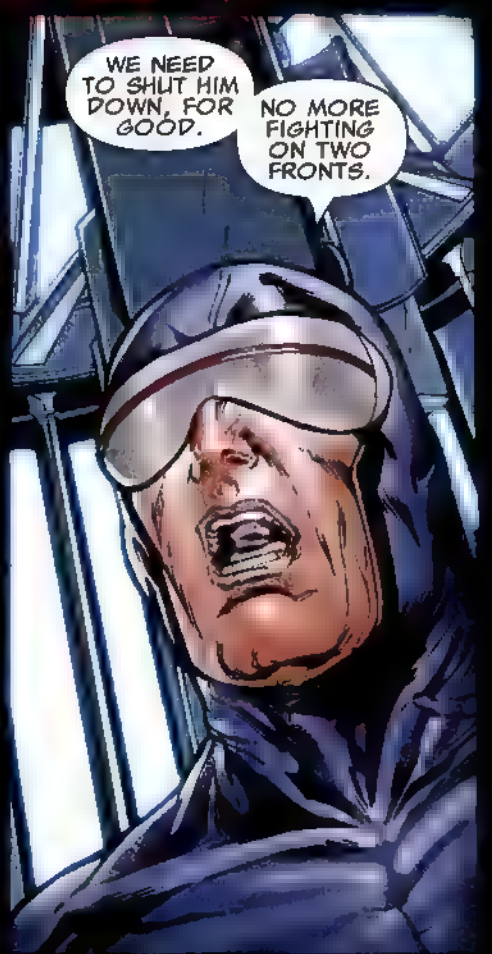


WE'RE ONLY THREE, AFTER ALL.



AND TELL THEM TO TRY TO FIND CABLE, TOO.

HE'S DONE TOO MUCH DAMAGE ALREADY...



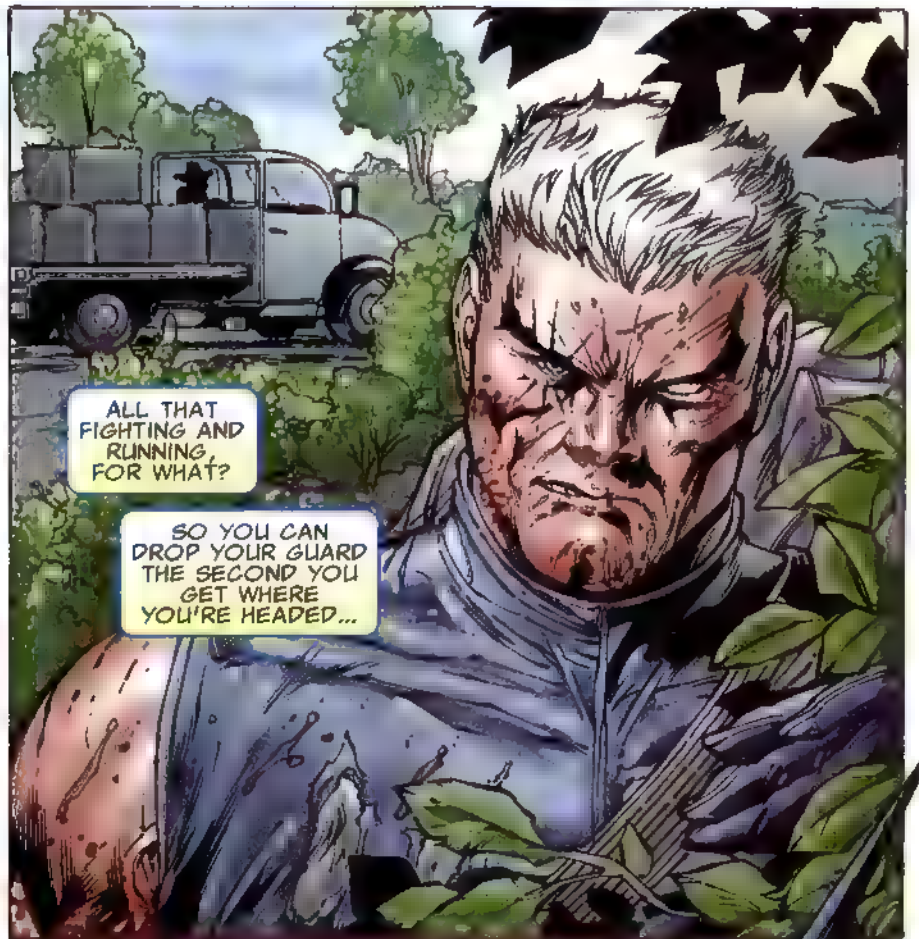
WE NEED TO SHUT HIM DOWN, FOR GOOD.

NO MORE FIGHTING ON TWO FRONTS.

**THE OUTSKIRTS
OF DALLAS**

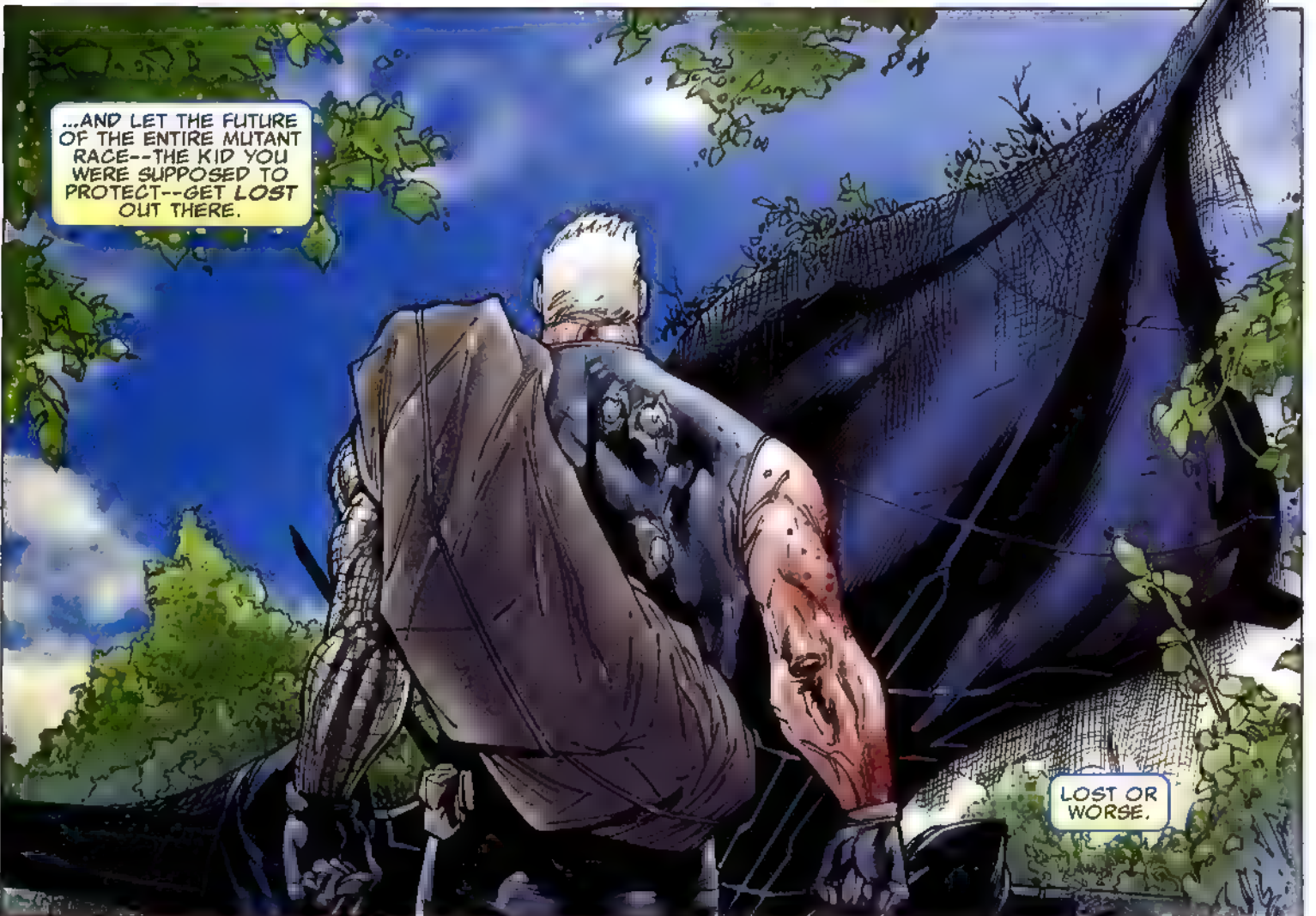


YOU'RE AN IDIOT,
NATHAN...GOT SO FAR,
ONLY TO LOSE IT ALL.



ALL THAT
FIGHTING AND
RUNNING,
FOR WHAT?

SO YOU CAN
DROP YOUR GUARD
THE SECOND YOU
GET WHERE
YOU'RE HEADED...



...AND LET THE FUTURE
OF THE ENTIRE MUTANT
RACE--THE KID YOU
WERE SUPPOSED TO
PROTECT--GET LOST
OUT THERE.

LOST OR
WORSE.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

AWARD-WINNING COMIC BOOK
WRITER BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

MARVEL: You got "Freaky Friday" (Spidey & Wolverine switched bodies) and now "Amazing Friends" (Spidey teams up with Iceman and Firestar) green-lit. Are there any stories in Ultimate Spider-Man that you've pitched that have been rejected?

BRIAN BENDIS: I'm trying to think. I have a pretty good sense of what won't get the green light so I try not to climb a hill I know can't be climbed. I do have a rather controversial story coming some time next year that got a tentative green light, but it was a hard sell. We'll see if it makes the light of day.

MARVEL: We're coming out of a very dark time in the lives of Pete and his supporting cast. Will this be a lighthearted story or is there more to this than the surface seems to suggest?

BRIAN BENDIS: Yeah, we tend to bounce back and forth with stuff like this. It is much lighter than the death of the Goblin, but it's still an important story for the series.

MARVEL: You seem to have a childlike glee regarding this story. How long has this been in the works?

BRIAN BENDIS: It was in my first ever "list of things

to do" when I got the book back in 1999. Followed by a note to myself saying: "How the @#\$% can you pull that off?" It took 118 issues to get the pieces in order.

MARVEL: We've met Iceman before, but not Firestar. Is she someone new or someone we've already met?

BRIAN BENDIS: She is someone we have met... BUT NOW SHE IS ON FIRE!

MARVEL: Were you a fan of the Spider-Man and his Amazing Friends cartoon from the 1980's?

BRIAN BENDIS: Oh yeah. There were some episodes, if memory serves, that were far superior in quality of animation than others. I was a really big fan of those.

MARVEL: Will Ms. Lion be making her long-overdue appearance in the Ultimate Universe?

BRIAN BENDIS: Sadly, that would be a no.

MARVEL: Is this going to be an ongoing team-up or a one-time thing?

BRIAN BENDIS: Probably a one-time thing as Jeph Loeb is going to blow up the Ultimate Universe in a few months.

MARVEL: Will they fight Videoman? (Editor's Note – In the animated series, Videoman was a villain created from an arcade game...seriously.)

BRIAN BENDIS: I thought about it, but decided that Magneto is the better choice in relation to me keeping my job.

MARVEL: Have you ever moved someone's football statue just to see if the room would change into a super-duper high-tech hangout?

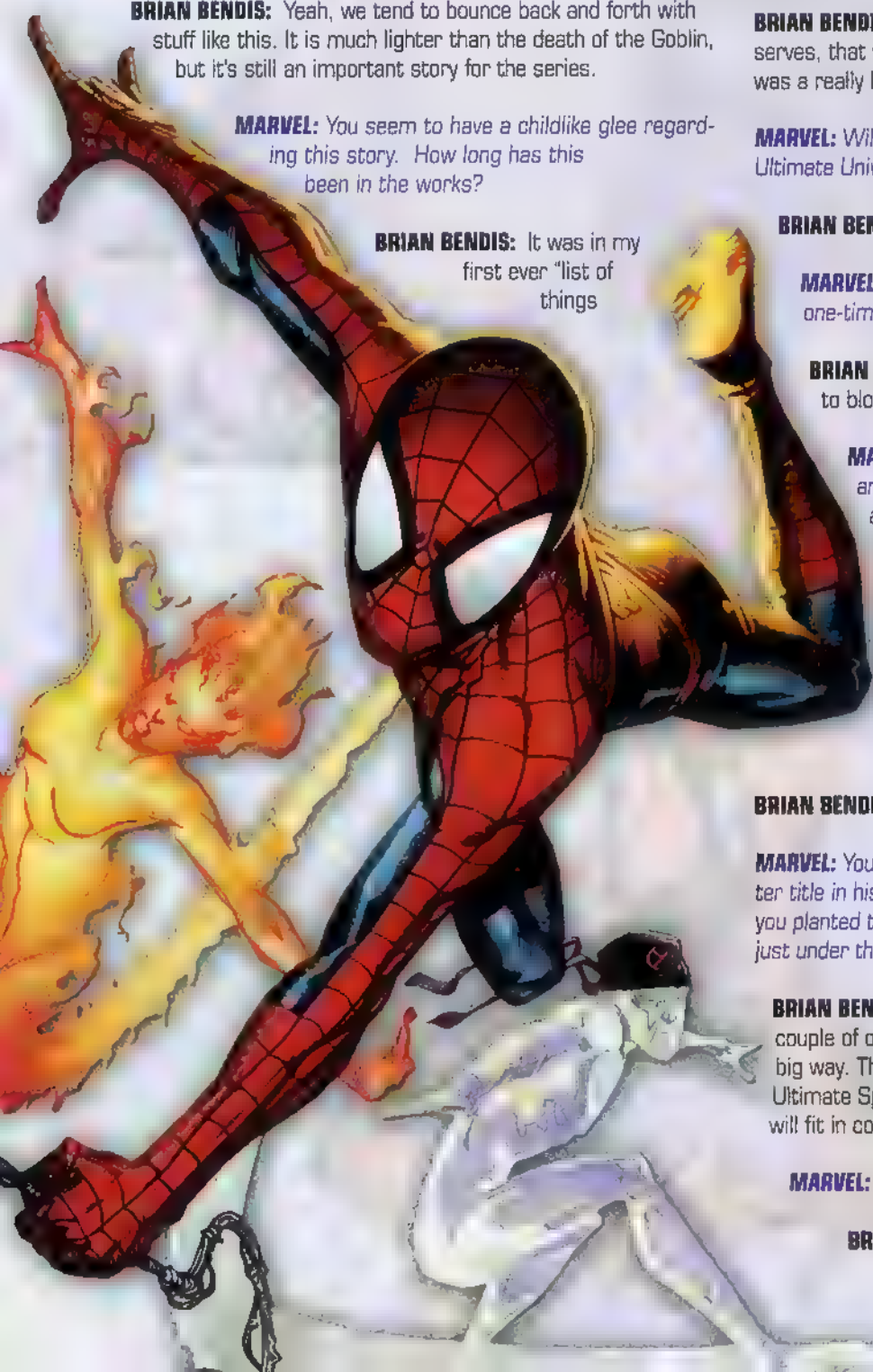
BRIAN BENDIS: Other than Joe Quesada's? No.

MARVEL: You're working on one of the longest runs on a single-character title in history, and yet you've managed to bring things forward that you planted the seeds for years ago. Are there other subplots boiling just under the surface that fans should keep their eyes on?

BRIAN BENDIS: Well, right after "Amazing Friends," we have a couple of one-shot stories that pay off some characters in a pretty big way. Then after that we are adapting and expanding on the Ultimate Spider-Man story from the video game we did, so now it will fit in continuity perfectly.

MARVEL: How far out DO you have this book plotted?

BRIAN BENDIS: I'm honestly well into the 140's. I'm scripting issue 126 now.

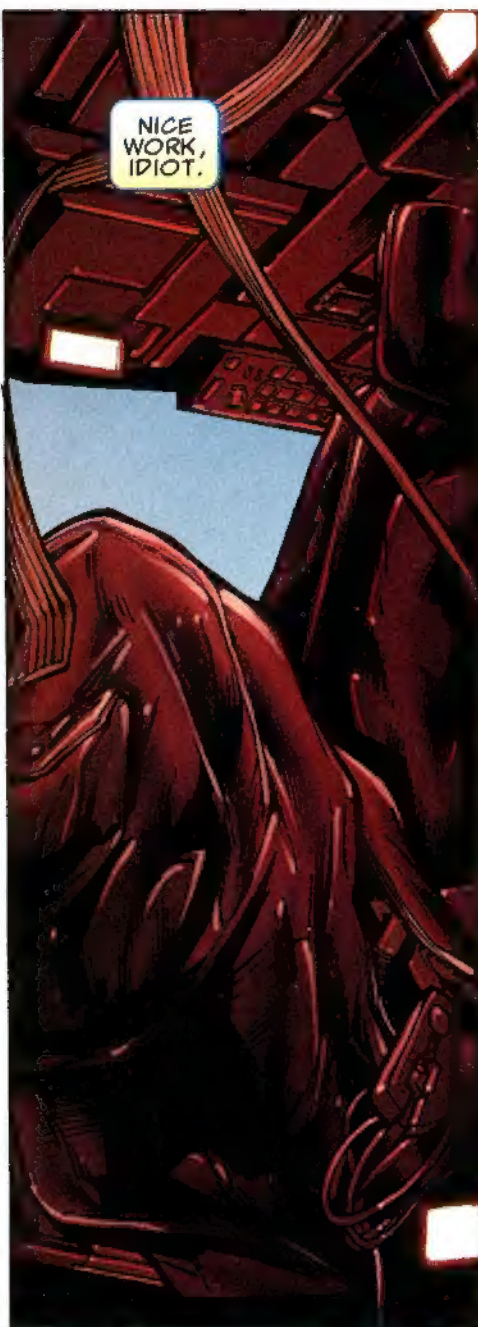


'Nuff Said!



SO NOW YOU'VE
GOT WHAT YOU NEED
TO FIX YOURSELF...
SO YOU CAN GET
OUT OF HERE...

BUT YOU'RE
SCREWED
ANYWAY.

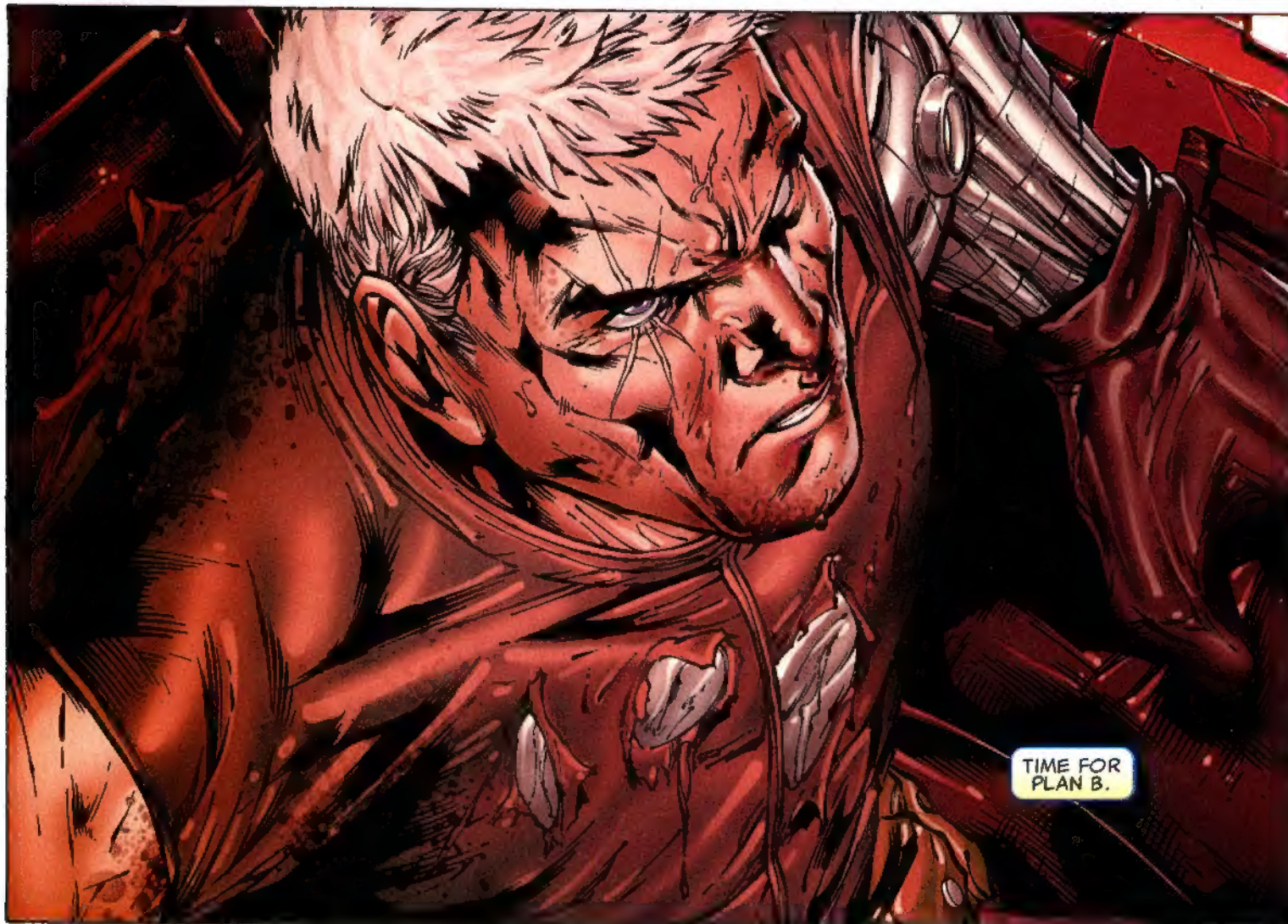


NICE
WORK,
IDIOT.



SO I GUESS THIS
IS IT...CAN'T DO
THIS ON YOUR
OWN ANYMORE.

THE STAKES
ARE TOO
HIGH.

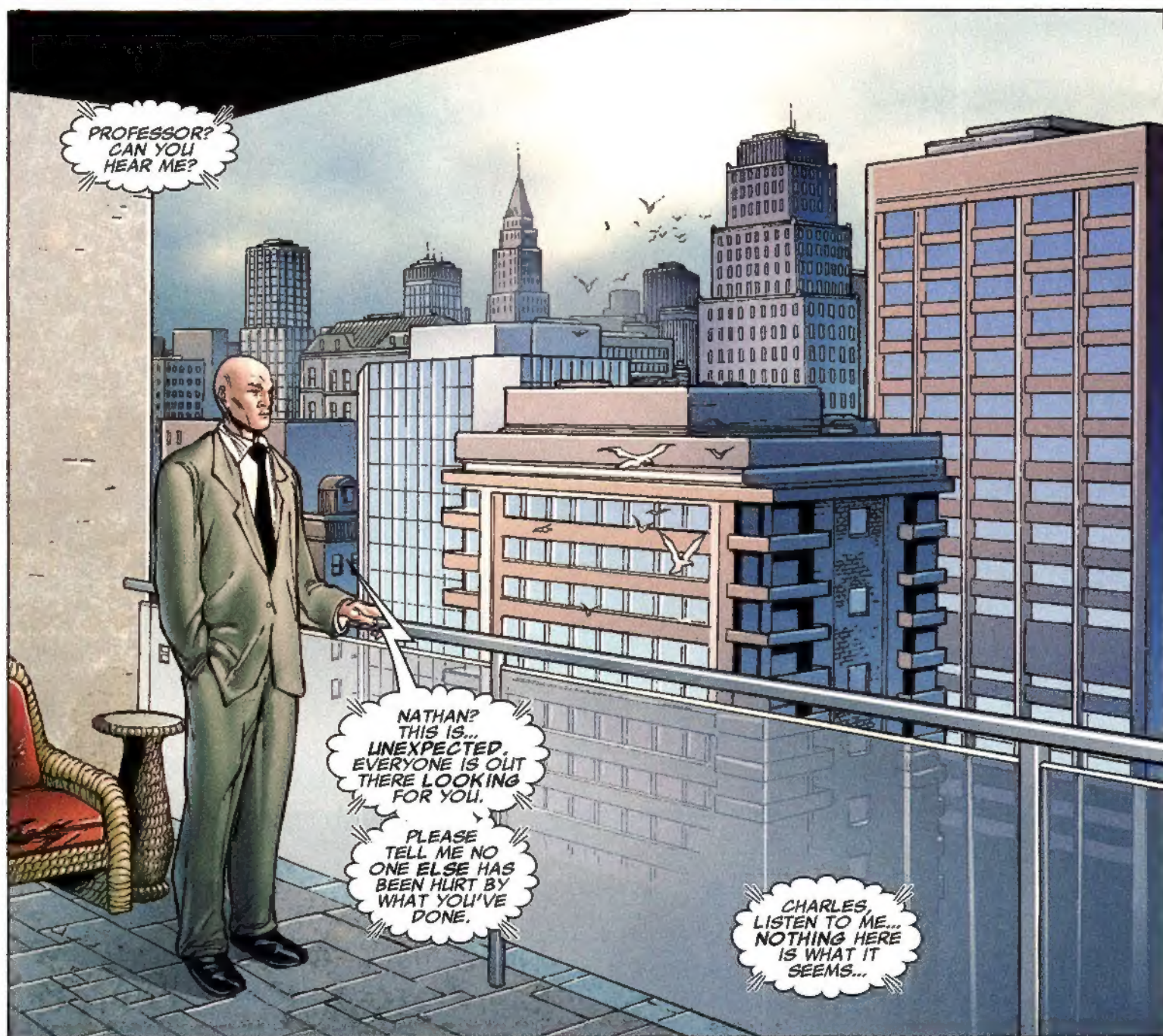


TIME FOR
PLAN B.



LET'S JUST
HOPE HE'S
LISTENING.

CLIN

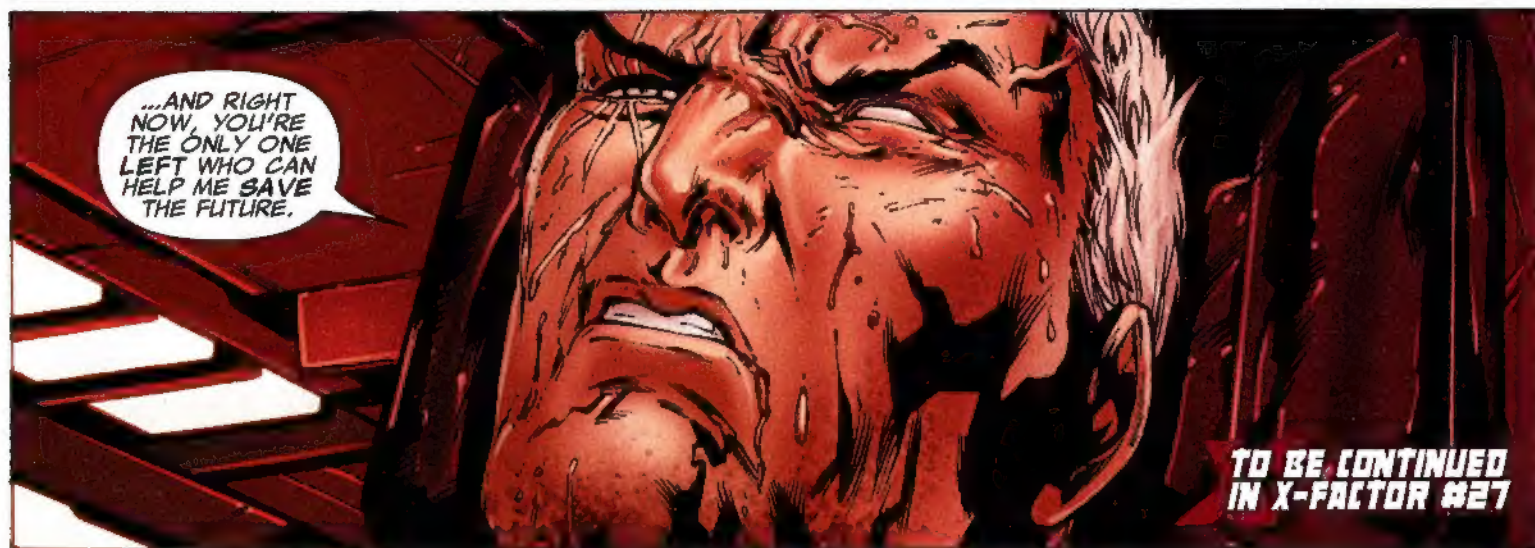


PROFESSOR?
CAN YOU
HEAR ME?

NATHAN?
THIS IS...
UNEXPECTED.
EVERYONE IS OUT
THERE LOOKING
FOR YOU.

PLEASE
TELL ME NO
ONE ELSE HAS
BEEN HURT BY
WHAT YOU'VE
DONE.

CHARLES
LISTEN TO ME...
NOTHING HERE
IS WHAT IT
SEEMS...



...AND RIGHT
NOW, YOU'RE
THE ONLY ONE
LEFT WHO CAN
HELP ME SAVE
THE FUTURE.

TO BE CONTINUED
IN X-FACTOR #27

X-MEN: MESSIAH COMPLEX

CHAPTER 11

X-FACTOR

ISSUE 27



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MESSIAH COMPLEX

chapter eleven

DAVID

MARVEL

EATON

NEXT WEEK

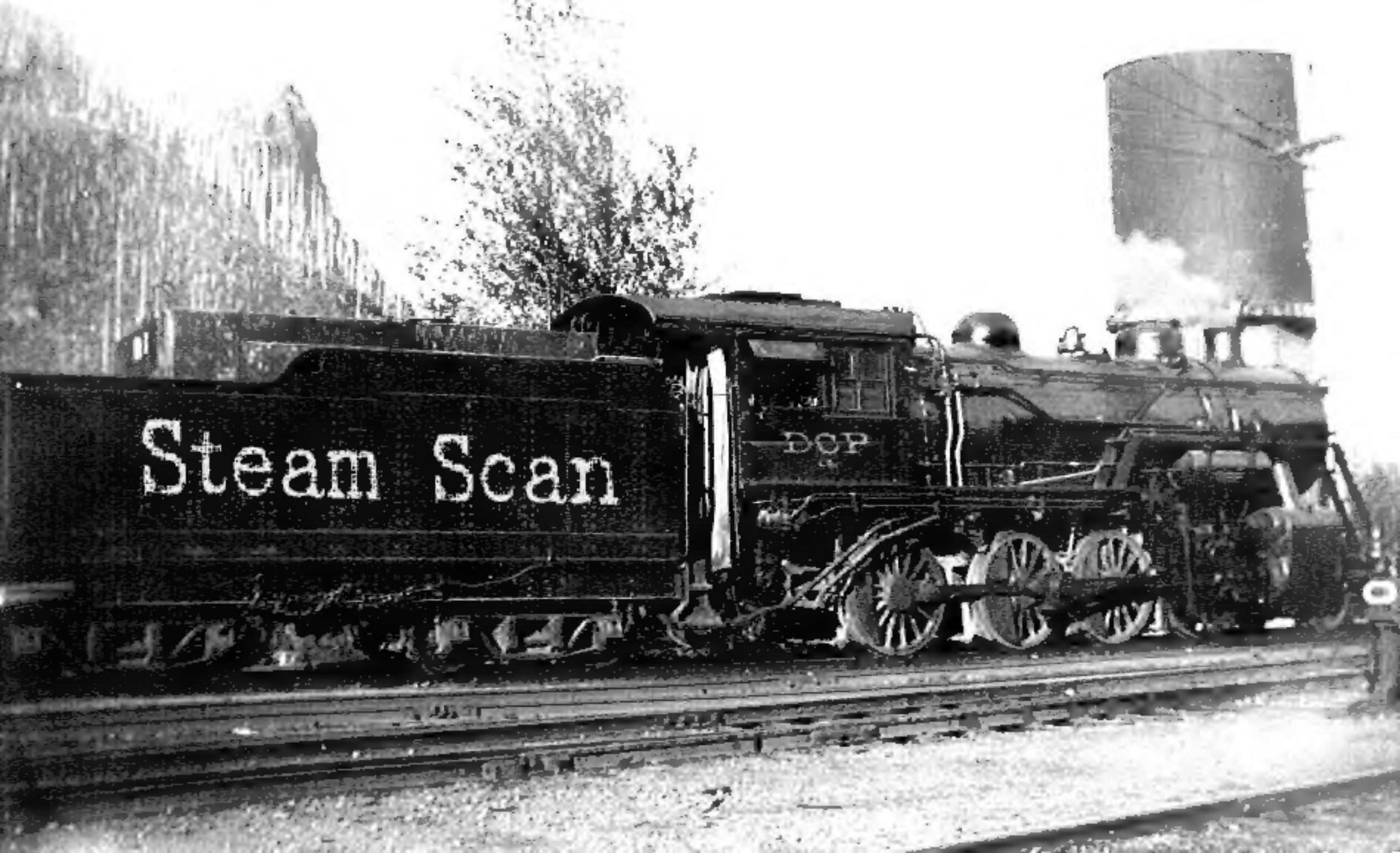
PREDATOR X REACHES THE MANSION.

A DOUBLE CROSS.

LAYLA AND MADROX: NO WAY HOME.



VARIANT COVER



Steam Scan

DOP